

# St. Mary Parish

Hales Corners, Wisconsin



## Parish Handbook

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# General Information/Administration

## St. Mary Parish Mission Statement



## Parish History

Saint Mary Faith Community is gifted with a rich heritage. Our roots go back to the time when Wisconsin was just a Territory. We began in a log church measuring only 24' by 36' which was built on the site of the present cemetery sometime between **1840** and **1842**. The congregation numbered 140 families, most of Irish decent.

A larger frame church was built in **1858** just west of where the log church stood. The cost was \$7,000 ~ a fortune in the mid 1800's. This church served our community for 35 years.

A large, Cream City brick church, located between the old rectory and Edgerton Avenue served as our faith community from **1893 to 1963**. A rectory was built in **1915** and was located along the former frontage road (the original Forest Home Plank Road prior to becoming a frontage road). The rectory was raised to make way for our new church and stone from the front of that building was used in the foundation of our new parish sign.

Because of the tremendous suburban growth of the post-war years our parish was growing rapidly. To accommodate the increasing number of children, a long anticipated parish school ~ eight rooms, a kitchen and hall ~ opened in September of **1954**. Four teachers began the school with 231 pupils. This was followed shortly thereafter by a convent which later housed our parish offices. A new church and additional classrooms were built in **1960** to serve an ever growing congregation of more than 800 families. September of 1960 welcomed 470 students back to school.

By the mid **1980's**, the buildings again were too small to handle the growing parish of 1700 families. The worship space was turned 90 degrees and a balcony was added in this renovation. Also a new wing was added which provided an addition to the school and a Community Centre (gymnasium).

The new millennium saw our parish numbers increasing to the point where we were again outgrowing every area of our facilities. We realized the need for additional space to educate our children — the 700 plus who attend public schools, and also attend religious education classes here — and for our parish school, where there was a need for defined space for art, computer, science and kindergarten classes. Meeting space to accommodate all of the various ministries was at a premium and the size and quality of our worship space clearly had met its

6 limitations.

In **2000**, our Parish Council addressed the need for a larger church, additional school, meeting and office space, as well as upgrading of the existing buildings and expanded parking. A campaign was begun in **2001** to fund this project. Ground-breaking for the new church followed on Father's Day in June of **2002**. What started in a log cabin with a few farmers has now grown to be one of the largest parishes in the archdiocese, serving approximately 3000 families or about 9000 people! Dedication of our new worship space, Gathering Space, classrooms, and offices occurred on September 28, 2003.

It is because of the gifts of those who have gone before us that we have this beautiful place to gather, worship, educate and form our children. We continue to build our faith by building our future.

The complex of St. Mary's is for the service of the community. It is for the good of the Christian community that these structures were erected in the space of many years. By themselves, they are a mass of brick and wood. But with the people of God therein, they become a living symbol of the presence of God in the gathering of His people. Whether around an altar, at a meeting or a recreational gathering, God is there...because His people are there!

This was the beginning of our parish, but the ending will not appear remotely in sight as long as there are people in our community gathering for worship. Meaningful programs, good liturgies and education, a sense of belonging-all contribute to a growing, active parish. We are proud of our rich heritage and grateful to those who came before us. We ask God's blessings upon us and the future of St. Mary Faith Community.



## Our Parish Cemetery

Our parish cemetery was established in 1842 on land that was donated by one of the earliest parishioners, John Furlong. The heritage of many parish families can be traced in this quiet space. Towering headstones, many now weather-worn and leaning, reveal glimpses into the hard times encountered by early parishioners. They also indicate the parishioners who died as infants or young children and many reveal birthplaces or Ireland or other European countries. The oldest known grave is that of Patrick McGowan, buried in August of 1842. The cemetery entrance features a plaque marking the site of the original “log church”, the first home for Saint Mary Parish.

The church cemetery is a visual representation of our heritage as a parish. It is a place that links the past to the present. In Europe, it is customary for parishes to build cemeteries surrounding their church so that each visit to the church includes a family visit to loved ones who have gone before them. These are joyful, peaceful visits that show the continuity of faith in many families.

Nestled in the shadows of our new church, our cemetery is the quiet resting place of many of our parish pioneers. Always in view from our Gathering, Worship, and Fellowship spaces, we are mindful of our own “Communion of Saints” each time we gather as a faith community.

Saint Mary’s cemetery became a county landmark in 1981.

## Parish Office

The St. Mary Parish office is the center of the administration of the parish. The parish office entrance is located North of the main church entrance.

The parish office is open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. If it is impossible for you to come during the day, please contact the parish office and arrangements can be made.

After regular parish office hours, all phone calls will be answered by an answering service. Emergency calls will be forwarded to a parish priest throughout the night.

Services provided by the office include:

- General information and referral
- Sacramental records and certificates: Baptism, Confirmation, Marriage, etc.
- Scheduling of facilities for parish events and meetings
- Compiling and preparation of Sunday Bulletin
- Registration of new members
- Financial Records

Because of the parish staff's innumerable tasks— meetings, educational work, counseling, liturgy and homily preparation, etc., it is impossible to have a priest or other member of the parish staff available at all times. However, our parish Administrative Assistant is available to welcome you and to assist you in any way possible. The best way to arrange to see a staff member is to call ahead or email them directly. In case of immediate need, every effort will be made to facilitate a meeting as soon as possible.



### Office Contact Information

Parish Office 425-2174  
Lifelong Faith Formation 425-3101  
Parish School 425-3100  
[www.stmaryhc.org](http://www.stmaryhc.org)  
[church@stmaryhc.org](mailto:church@stmaryhc.org)  
[school@stmaryhc.org](mailto:school@stmaryhc.org)

**See Contact Information insert for a complete listing of numbers and emails.**

## Communication Center

The Communication Center is located on the North wall of the Gathering Space. This room is staffed before and after all weekend masses. This space is used for registrations, sale of Scrip and other items on occasion. We use this space as a point of drop-off or pick-up between staff and parishioners. The Communication Center is also a place to ask questions or turn in lost and found items.

## Secretarial Volunteers

Secretarial volunteers provide an integral service to the parish office. The volunteers assist the office staff with front desk coverage, bulletin inserts, printing, collating, organizing, etc. The office could not operate without the help of these volunteers.

## Parish Membership

All Catholic adults living within the parish and regularly participating in the Liturgy are welcome to register as parish members. Registration is required for reception of the Sacraments and attendance in our Parish School and Lifelong Faith Formation program. To register, please contact the Parish Office or the Communication Center before or after mass.

Any members who plan to move from our parish community or have a change of address, should notify the Parish Office.

The people of St. Mary Faith Community, as baptized Catholic Christians, believe we are called to witness God's presence through worship, celebration, proclamation, evangelization, and ministry to one another. By sharing our unique gifts and talents, we commit ourselves to ongoing transformation, by reaching out and being a prophetic voice to our families, workplace and society. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we will continue prayerfully to build the Reign of God.



## **Parish Council**

The Parish Council is the policy forming body for the parish and the pastor's primary advisory group. Among its areas of responsibility and accountability are the spiritual, financial, and educational concerns of St. Mary Parish. The Council is responsible for guiding and determining the direction and decision-making of the parish. Members provide leadership and planning based on the mission of the church and parish. The council consists of 12 members elected from the parish at large and other ex-officio members. The latter includes the priests, pastoral associate, two trustees, and a youth representative. Parishioners make a 3-year commitment and are discerned onto the Council.

## **Finance**

The Finance Committee assists the Council in monitoring and maintaining sound financial welfare of the parish and to make recommendations to the Council with regard to parish finances, development of a balanced budget, stewardship of financial and physical resources, regular church support and special fund-raising events.

## **Stewardship**

In November of each year we ask members to assess their personal gift of treasure and give back to God a financial commitment to the parish to allow for a fiscally responsible budget.

## **Time and Talent**

Each year we have a Parish Ministry Fair. This allows parishioners to interact with the people already involved in the multiple ministries that make up St. Mary. We always encourage parishioners to become involved in ministries that interest them and allow them the opportunity to commit themselves in service to Christ's church.

## **Building and Grounds**

The Building and Grounds Committee reviews needs and plans maintenance and repair projects for the parish facilities.

# Spiritual Life and Worship

## Liturgy

The Liturgy of the Church is the heart of the parish community. It is the most significant act of the community, from which all other activities flow. In the Liturgy we see ourselves as a community of believers— celebrating, growing, helping each other toward eternal life with God.

The weekly liturgy schedule is printed in the bulletin and is available online. Normally, the schedule is as follows:



### **Weekday Masses**

Monday through Friday 8:15am

### **Communion Service**

Whenever the priests are unavailable for weekday liturgies, the Pastoral Associate leads a Communion Service. When scheduled in advance, a Communion Service is noted in the Mass Intention section of the bulletin. However, circumstances may arise that require the Pastoral Associate fill in for a priest on short notice.

### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., & 11:00 a.m.

### **Holy Days & Other Special Holidays**

See the weekly bulletin for the Mass Schedule

### **Non-Eucharistic Liturgies**

Evening Prayer: Sunday's during Advent and Lent

Blessing of Easter Food: Holy Saturday afternoon

## Baptism

*“Baptism incorporates us into Christ and forms us into God’s people. This first Sacrament pardons all our sins, rescues us from the power of darkness, and brings us to the dignity of adopted children...” (Rite of Christian Initiation, General Introduction, 2).*

Baptism is the celebration of initiation into the Body of Christ. It is the liturgical expression of the individual’s desire (or those responsible for her/him) to be a member, and the Church to accept that person as a member. It is the union of baptized people that makes up the Church.



Generally, Baptism is celebrated the Second and Fourth weekends of the month at all of the Masses, and the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the church.

Requirements for baptism: The young child of a parent who is living a Catholic Christian life and is presently a registered member of St. Mary’s may receive the Sacrament of Baptism. Attendance at a Baptism Preparation Class and a conversation with a couple from the parish are required prior to the Baptism.

Baptism Preparation class is offered the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

As a point of information, only one sponsor is required for Baptism; custom places the number at two. Baptized non-Catholic Christians may be sponsors at a Catholic baptism as long as there is at least one practicing Catholic. The primary sponsor must be confirmed and at least 16 years of age.

Contact the Parish Office to register your child for baptism or to get more information.

Adults who do not belong to the Catholic Church, but would like to know more about what the Church believes and teaches, are invited to contact a priest, deacon, or the Director of Adult and Family Ministry for information. There is no obligation to join the Church.

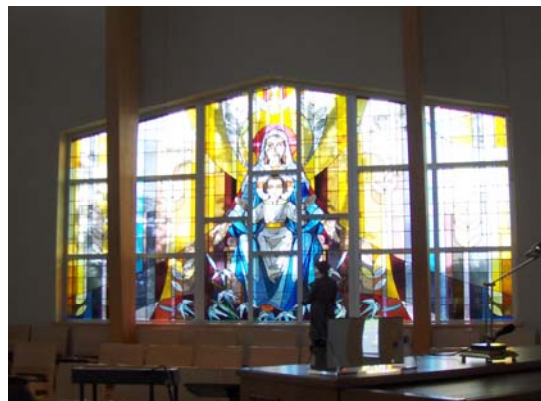
## Reconciliation

*“Those who approach the sacrament of penance obtain pardon from the mercy of God for offenses committed against Him. They are at the same time reconciled with the Church, which they have wounded by their sins, and which by charity, example, and prayer seek their conversion”* (Vatican II, Lumen gentium, n. 11).

Reconciliation is a complex biblical term which includes God’s invitation and our response to ongoing conversion within a community of faith. Through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the faithful receive pardon from God’s mercy for the sins they have committed and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church Community. In order that this sacrament may truly achieve its purpose among the faithful, it must take root in their entire life and move them to fervent service of God and neighbor.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated the first Saturday of the month from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Reconciliation Room in the Southeast corner of the Church. Private Reconciliation is available anytime by personal arrangement with one of the priests.

Reconciliation is not only a Sacrament, but an attitude we must develop toward God according to individual needs. Prayer and meditation, as well as occasions of reconciliation in other liturgies, should be used in addition to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



## **Anointing of the Sick**

*“By the sacred anointing of the sick and the prayer of the priests the whole Church commends those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord that he may raise them up and save them. And indeed she exhorts them to contribute to the food of the People of God by feely uniting themselves to the passion of Christ” (Vatican II, Lumen gentium, n. 11).*

The pastoral care of the sick and dying has always been an integral part of the church’s mission entrusted to it by Jesus: “I was sick and you visited me” ( Matthew 25:36). The Lord Himself showed great concern for the bodily and spiritual welfare of the sick and commanded His followers to do likewise. Since then the Church has never ceased to celebrate this sacrament for its members by the anointing and the prayer of its priests, commending those who are ill to the suffering and glorified Lord. Those who are seriously ill need the special help of God’s grace in this time of anxiety, lest they be broken in spirit and perhaps weakened in their faith.

The anointing of the sick can be administered to a member of the faithful whose health is marked by illness, surgery, or old age. It is important to remember that people are encouraged to receive the sacrament during the early stages of illness. Do not delay anointing. This is NOT the “last rites”. The sacrament can be repeated whenever the sick person again falls into a serious sickness or whenever a more serious crisis develops during the same sickness.

The anointing of the sick is meant for the living. If there is a person in your family who is ill, chronically sick, growing weaker or disabled, preparing for surgery, they should receive the anointing of the sick. If a family calls for the anointing of a loved one, it is a great support for the sick person to have their whole family and friends present during the actual anointing.

A communal celebration of the Anointing of the Sick is celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the 8:15 a.m. liturgy.

## **Christian Burial**

*“At the death of a Christian, whose life of faith was begun in the waters of Baptism and strengthened at the Eucharistic table, the Church interceded on behalf of the deceased because of its confident belief that death is not the end nor does it break the bonds forged in life. The Church also ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist”* (General Introduction, *Order of Christian Funerals*, #4).

Our Catholic Way of Life teaches us that death is not an end of life but a change. In the burial of a Christian we celebrate the faith of the deceased person and Christ’s victory over death and suffering. Christians celebrate the funeral rites to offer worship, praise, and thanksgiving to God for the gift of life which has now been returned to God, the Author of Life and the Hope of the Just. The Mass, the memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection, is the principal celebration of the Christian funeral. The Church through its funeral rites commends the dead to God’s merciful love and pleads for forgiveness of sins.

### **When Someone Dies**

- (1) Contact the funeral home of your choice. Usually, the funeral director will contact the parish office in order to arrange for the burial of the deceased person. At that time necessary information will be given to the parish and a date and time for funeral liturgy and vigil will be set based on the priest, space, funeral home, and family availability.
- (2) Notify the parish office as soon as possible.
- (3) The priest or pastoral minister presiding at the funeral will be in contact with the family to arrange a meeting in order to prepare the liturgy: reflect on the life of the deceased, select readings and hymns, discuss family participation, etc.

### **Liturgical Ministries**

**Liturgy is the central act of the people of God**, the life of the faith community, our purpose for being. Liturgical ministries, services to the people, are specifically formed to provide for our celebrations. Those who are involved in these services are servants of God who serve the assembled community. Each ministry requires training, preparation, installation, and updating. Sharing in a ministry or organization might be one way of giving your time and talent. For further information about these opportunities, contact the parish Director of Liturgy and Music.

### **Environment & Art**

This group of volunteers plans and prepares worship space-the church and gathering space, by decorating for the seasons and feasts.



### **Spiritual Life and Worship Committee**

This is the central liturgical umbrella organization. It is responsible for the planning and coordination of all facets of Liturgy.

### **Servers**

**Youth:** Boys and girls, 5th grade and above, who participate in this ministry assist at weekend, Holy Day and other liturgies.

**Adults:** Men and women who participate in this ministry assist at the altar for funerals, vespers and other special liturgies.

### **Hospitality Ministers**

The women and men who greet the people as they enter the Church building are the hospitality ministers. They are there to welcome and assist the people in orderly movement before, during, and after the Liturgies. They can also be of great assistance in giving directions to the other facilities of the parish complex and in emergency situations. Feel free to approach any of them to assist you in any way.

### **Lectors**

Proclamation of the Word of God is the role of this ministry. The lector is the medium through which God's word is communicated to the people. He or she is required to combine faith and skill when proclaiming the scriptures. The lector is present at weekend, Holy day and other special liturgical celebrations.

### **Extraordinary Ministers of Communion**

In order to facilitate the distribution of the Eucharist during our Liturgies, parishioners share the Body and Blood of the Lord with other members of the community of St. Mary's. This service by members of the St. Mary Parish family brings home the words of St. Paul: "You are the Body of Christ".

### **Music Ministers**

Music is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Church. The choirs, cantors, and instrumentalists of the parish perform the function of leading the musical participation, empowering the assembly, and providing a necessary solemnity to our parish worship.



We are blest to have the following choirs:

Acclaim Choir– 9:00a.m. Liturgy  
Harmony Choir– 11:00a.m. Liturgy  
Children's Choir– seasonal  
Resurrection Choir– All funerals

### **Instrumentalists and Accompanists**

Parishioners with vocal and instrumental talent participate at masses and baptisms to share their talents with our community and add something special to the services.

### **Cantors**

The cantors, servants of the assembly, are trained leaders of song who, along with the instrumentalist and choir, assist the assembly in their sung prayer.

### **Funeral Hosts**

The volunteers to this ministry are present at the visitation and funeral to welcome family and friends. They set-up for the visitation and funeral mass in church. The funeral host represents the Parish to the family and to the funeral home personnel. The host is present to provide hospitality and create a feeling of welcome for grieving families.

### **Wedding Hosts**

Wedding hosts are volunteers who are present at the wedding rehearsal and on the wedding day. They are a welcoming resource for brides, grooms, and their family and friends to help the rehearsal and wedding day go smoothly.

### **Assisting Sacristans**

Volunteers to this ministry make sure all is ready in the worship space for the assembly to celebrate Liturgy. This involves interacting with the presider and other liturgical ministers by preparing books, gifts, holy water, incense, etc. Sacristans are the behind-the-scenes planners and caretakers that make sure the Liturgy runs smoothly.

### **Church Cleaning**

A group of volunteers dusts, polishes, vacuums, and straightens up the church and gathering space weekly.

## **Outreach & Human Concerns**

### **Pastoral Care**

To carry out the healing action of Jesus, the office of pastoral care offers a sacramental presence to those who are sick, homebound, dying or grieving. Many parish members have begun to hear the call to share the love of Jesus with those within the parish community who suffer physically. Training of the volunteers in the pastoral skills of listening, caring and bringing Eucharist to the suffering, St. Mary's seeks to fulfill the corporal and spiritual works of mercy to bring comfort to the sorrowing and solace to the ill. The Elizabeth Ministry seeks to offer pastoral care to women who are pregnant and to families who have lost children through preborn deaths. Each year there is a Mass of Hope for couples who struggle with issues of infertility.

### **Bereavement Ministry**

The death of a loved family member or friend touches many at St. Mary's. The journey families make through loss and grief must be supported by the community. In the parish there are four avenues of ministry to the bereaved:

#### **Ministry of Care and Hope**

Volunteer ministers follow up with each family in the parish that experiences a loss through death: writing to them and remembering them throughout the year are earmarks of this comforting ministry.

#### **Grief Support Groups**

Each year, two six-week grief support groups are offered to the bereaved families. Here the families each learn the dynamics of grief and they are given opportunities to talk to others who have experienced similar losses. Here the families find support and strength to carry on into life with new hope.

### **Healing Night for the Recently Bereaved**

On All Souls' Day, November 2nd, the parish celebrates with the bereaved families, a special healing liturgy. Candles are lit and the names of all those who died within the past year are called and remembered. A special pot luck supper is held in the cafeteria afterward. This is another opportunity for the folks to realize they are not alone on the journey.

### **Pastoral Counseling**

In difficult losses, sometimes a family member may need individual time with a pastoral counselor. The priests and pastoral associate are available to help the person heal through listening and through prayer.

## **Care of the Sick**

The parish offers special prayers and programs for members who are sick and struggling with various illnesses. If anyone in your family or neighborhood is homebound for any length of time or enters the hospital, or is in need of assistance please notify the parish office immediately. The following ministries are available:

### **Communion for the Sick**

Following the distribution of Communion at all scheduled weekend and Holy Day Eucharistic liturgies, an opportunity is given for adults to take the Eucharist home for the sick. This is not limited to those who are seriously ill, but it is open to anyone who cannot come to Mass due to illness.

### **Reaching Out to the Sick**

For those confined longer, a service can be extended to them by members of the parish who do more than bring Eucharist. Offering prayer and visiting on a regular basis show these parishioners our concern for them. Contact the parish office if you or someone you love would like ongoing home visitation.

### **Nursing Homes**

Regular visits to nursing homes are made by staff members and pastoral care ministers. Should a member of the family take up residence in a nursing home, please notify the parish office.

### **Hospital Visitations**

Weekly hospital visits are made to area hospitals such as West Allis Memorial, St. Luke, and St. Francis. Along with the priests and pastoral ministers, trained lay ministers regularly extend care to the sick in hospitals. If someone is hospitalized in a hospital further away, a visit can be arranged upon the request of a family member.

Each major hospital has a Pastoral Care Department where a priest or a chaplain is available. If an emergency arises and you are unable to locate a priest or other pastoral minister, then call the hospital's Pastoral Care Department.

## **Elizabeth Ministry**

Following the example of Mary and Elizabeth, the Elizabeth ministers honor the sacredness of life. It is an outreach to women in special times of motherhood. It is based on Jesus' vision of radical goodness, beauty and truth of human life. The purpose of this ministry is to affirm, support, encourage and assist women in response to their need during their childbearing years. Special training is required to help in this ministry.

## **Spiritual Direction**

For those who desire a companion on the spiritual journey, qualified spiritual direction is available. A spiritual director helps one notice the movements of God, as well as facilitates growth in prayer and the spiritual life. After an initial conversation, the director and directee will discern whether this privileged relationship would be graced time.

## **Prayer Works**

This is a group of intercessory pray-ers who receive names of people each week via email or phone. They create a prayer chain that uses specific names of people or anonymous intentions.

## **St. Ben's**

On the second Thursday of each month, St. Mary's parishioners sponsor the supper meal at St. Ben's. Parishioners volunteer to make, deliver, and/or serve the food at the downtown site.

## **St. Vincent DePaul**

Inspired by Gospel values, Vincentians work diligently to show vulnerable individuals/families that we care about them, and that we want to help them to the best of our ability and resources. We enthusiastically invite and welcome youth and adults who also wish to assist others who need our confidential person-to-person assistance. We are one of the largest conferences, and urge you to join us as we humbly care for the increasing and diverse needs of God's chosen people. Our conference meets once a month to pray together and discuss how well we are accomplishing our mission. We conduct numerous enriching service activities, within and outside our parish complex throughout the year.

## **Haiti**

The mission of the St. Mary's Haiti committee is to build a lasting relationship between the people of Notre Dame du Perpetual Secours and the parishioners of St. Mary . One of our goals is to be advocates for the people of Latiboliere as they work to improve the quality of their lives and bring about sustainable development to their parish community.

## **The Bridge**

The Bridge is an ecumenical employment ministry involving area churches. Located at Whitnall Park Lutheran, it provides resume help, interview coaching and connection with employers.

## **Circle of Love**

There are many people in our community that are, for various reasons, unable to enjoy the giving and receiving of gifts during the Christmas season. Parishioners are given the opportunity to give the names of the needy to the Circle of Love. The identity of the needy is withheld. Other parishioners then choose a person to anonymously give a gift to based only on sex and age.

## **Outreach**

The goal of the Outreach Committee is to support the Parish Mission Statement by distributing budgeted financial aid to Christian charitable efforts outside the Parish. Christian charitable efforts whether local, national, or international are eligible for aid based upon a review of the cause by the Committee.

## **Lifelong Faith Formation**

The faith community of St. Mary's strongly believes that our faith formation and relationship with the Lord Jesus never ends. It is not for just one group of people. Parents and families are the primary catechists and formation units where faith is passed on. It is the duty of the Parish to assist our adults in passing on the content element of our Catholic tradition. The whole parish community is responsible for the forming of our children, youth, young adults, and the adults of our congregation.

## **Christian Education Program**

The mission to "tell the world" of the Good News has been given to us, passed down from the Apostles. Throughout the centuries, this mission has been accomplished. In today's world, the Church accomplishes it in various ways. One of these ways is to utilize methods of education with the parish structure. Religious education at St. Mary's involves a great variety of programs to assist its members in knowing and discovering the message of Christ. It involves three divisions— the Lifelong Faith Formation Program (for preschool through high school aged children in the public schools), the parish school, and Adult Christian Formation.

Children's Ministry is for children and families K4-5th grade. Children's Ministry is formal religious education classes and much more, including events and activities for **all** families and children such as "Family Movie Nights" and "St. Nick at Night".

### **Preschool Program (K4-K5)**

K4-K5 is a religion program for four and five year olds. It is in session during the Fall and Spring for eleven weeks each semester, during the 9:00 a.m. Mass. First grade classes are also available during this time period.

### **Children's Liturgy of the Word**

Twice a month at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. liturgies children from grades 1 through 5 have the opportunity to celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word. After the opening prayer, children join volunteer facilitators who help the children understand, at their own level, the message of the readings of the day. They return to church after the Prayer of the Faithful to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist with their families.

### **Grades 1-5**

Religious Education classes for grades 1 through 5 meet during the school year either on Mondays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. Classes meet each semester for 11 weeks. This group of children also has group prayer experiences. Each class will have a service component and we also make lunches for “Repairers of the Breach” homeless shelter.

### **Special Needs Program/Rainbows**

We collaborate with St. Leonard’s in Muskego in a Special Needs Religious Education program. Rainbows is a program for children dealing with loss issues due to death or divorce. For more details call the Lifelong Faith Formation office.

### **Vacation Bible Camp**

This is a special opportunity the last week in June for **all** children K4 through grade 3. VBC is full of singing, crafts, Bible adventure time, snacks, games and much more. Registrations materials for VBC come out in early Spring each year. Enrollment is limited.

### **First Eucharist/First Reconciliation**

All parishes in the Milwaukee Archdiocese now celebrate the sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in second grades. Preparation for these sacraments requires:

- Active membership in the parish
- Minimum of first grade completed
- Participation in the process by children and parents in both St. Mary’s school and Religious Education classes.

Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist is done in the Fall of Second Grade. Preparation and celebration for First Reconciliation is in Winter. First Eucharist preparation and celebration is in early Spring.



# Youth Ministry

## Middle School Youth Group

The Middle School Youth Group is an organization for all St. Mary Parish middle school students from both public and private schools in 6th, 7th and 8th grade. It provides a safe, supervised, atmosphere for the kids to build community in faith and friendship.

## High School Youth Group

The St. Mary High School Youth Group is an organization for all public and private high school teens (freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors). Their mission is to create and participate in faith-filled, fun-filled service and social events. For the past six years, this group has participated in a summer mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation. Our desire is to expand this experience and invite all high school youths to experience fellowship and faith among their peers.

## High School Christian Formation

Classes for ninth and tenth graders are offered during the school year and are geared toward the interests and concerns of teens. The goal is to offer the teens a program with a sense of community, opportunities for worship and service, and a chance to grow in understanding of the Christian message.

## Confirmation

By the signing with the gift of the Spirit, Confirmation enriches the baptized with the Holy Spirit, binding them more perfectly to the Church, and strengthening them in their witness to Christ by word and deed and in their work to bring to its fullness in the Body of Christ. It is the continuation now in a formal way of a process that began in childhood and continues throughout all of life.



In the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, young people are given the opportunity to express their decision to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at age 16, hence making a commitment to Jesus and their Catholic faith. Making such a faith commitment is an important step in each person's life and should be an informed decision based on knowledge of the Catholic religion, the depth of one's faith development, the degree of one's commitment to Christ and to the faith-community, the level of involvement in community worship and service to one's neighbor, and a sincere desire to respond YES to one's belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Anyone wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is expected to fulfill the following requirements:

- (1) Active membership in the parish community
- (2) Minimum age of 16 or in the junior year of high school
- (3) Participation in the preparation program, including educational and service components.

Confirmation preparation provides an opportunity for growth in knowledge, which hopefully will lead to growth in faith as well. The basic experience of the Confirmation program should indeed be a deeper awareness of the person of Jesus and his teaching and how his mission continues in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



## Young Adult Ministry

Young Adult Ministry is people coming together for fun, friendships and shared faith in a Christian atmosphere. The term “young adult” refers to an attitude or position in life. It is the stage in life in which directions are sought, choices are tested and commitments are made. Anyone in their 20’s and 30’s, married or single is welcome to participate in the programs. Our goal is to offer a variety of activities: social, spiritual and educational, to fill the many different needs of the people in this age group. Contact the Youth and Young Adult Minister for more details.

## Adult Christian Formation

A number of years ago, the United States Catholic Bishops wrote a pastoral letter on Catholic Education entitled, “TO TEACH AS JESUS DID.” In this letter the Bishops remarked, *“Today, perhaps more than ever before, it is important to recognize that learning is a lifelong experience. Rapid, radical change in contemporary society demand well planned, continuing efforts to assimilate new data, new insights, new modes of thinking and acting. The continuing education of adults is situated not at the periphery of the Church’s educational mission is at its center.”*

### **Interest in Catholicism / R.C.I.A.– Sponsorship**

Many non-Catholic adults who come in contact with St. Mary’s often express an interest in joining our Church. Some are from other Christian traditions. Others have not been baptized or if baptized, have not received First Eucharist or Confirmation. R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process of adult initiation into the fullness of the Catholic Church. Each candidate journeys with a sponsor; an adult Catholic member of the parish. Sponsors participate in all of the sessions along with the candidates. The program provides the sponsor with an opportunity for spiritual renewal and update while, at the same time, welcoming a new member into the community.

### **Adult Formation Topics**

Guest speakers and panels are invited to St. Mary’s to educate and inspire us to be faithful disciples of Jesus. Each year a variety of topics are presented.

### **Parish Lenten Program**

A parish Lenten program, featuring a variety of outstanding presentations, is held once a week throughout the Lenten season.

### **Scripture Study**

Scripture study is an opportunity to gather and discuss the readings for the coming week. No experience is needed. This is an opportunity to share thoughts and to hear others' interpretations of the readings.



### **Evening for Couples**

This evening of enrichment for married couples is held near Valentine's Day. The evening includes a presentation and a candle light dinner. This is an excellent opportunity for couples to renew their love for each other.

### **Adult Confirmation**

This program, in collaboration with St. Alphonsus in Greendale and St. Martin of Tours in Franklin, is designed for the adult considering a mature commitment of faith in Christ through the sacrament of Confirmation. Every preparation course requires the full participation of each individual. The elements of our Adult Confirmation program are designed to offer you the best preparation we can within 14 evening sessions and an evening of reflection.

### **Mom's Faith Connection**

Women who would like to deepen their understanding of the Traditions and teachings of the Catholic Church are invited to a class which meets on the second and fourth Monday morning of the month. Child care is provided for a nominal fee. Opportunities abound for discussion and spiritual growth.

### **Adult Library**

There are browsing shelves on the second floor, outside room 212. Books and videos range from devotional to academic topics and are available to all parishioners to sign out.

## Ministry to the Engaged

### **FOCCUS (facilitating open couple communication, understanding & study) & Prepare & Enrich**

These are inventories designed to deal with current issues and needs in marriage preparation. At St. Mary the engaged couple will be assigned to a trained married couple who will facilitate the discussion.

### **Day of Enrichment**

This day of marriage preparation is done in Collaboration with St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale and St. Martin of Tours Parish in Franklin. The day will offer a number of opportunities including a time to hear about the faith dimension of marriage, presentations on the liturgical aspects of getting ready for the marriage ceremony, plus there will be the witness of a married couple sharing from their own marital experiences. The three hours together will provide opportunities for you and your partner to reflect upon your relationship through listening, dialogue and prayer.

You will have the option of attending the “Day of Enrichment” at the parish site and time that is most convenient for you. A “Day of Enrichment” brochure/schedule is available in the Parish Office and the Communication Center.

### **Date Your Mate**

“Date Your Mate” is relatively new at St. Mary’s, building on very successful programs such as *The Five Languages of Love*, *Ten Great Dates to Energize Your Marriage*, and Marriage Encounter. This year we begin a new series entitled *Intimate Marriage*, a program designed to look at the scriptural goal of marriage, and what we all desire: a good marriage.

Couples sign up for a series of innovative and fun date nights on the third Friday of the month. On date night you come to the parish at 6:30p.m. for a short presentation on the evening’s topic. By 7:00p.m. you are ready to leave for your date at a restaurant, movie or picnic place of your choice.

St. Mary’s makes it easy! We provide on-site, low-cost childcare for ages 5 and up. Contact the Director of Adult and Family Ministry or see the Contact Page Insert for who to contact for more information.

### **Small Christian Communities**

In a community as large as St. Mary Catholic Faith Community, it is easy to feel lost in the crowd. But *you* are important. A small faith community is a group of people like you interested in getting to know you and offering spiritual companionship.

At St. Mary's we are committed to the idea of small faith communities as a way to build up the Body of Christ. While the Eucharistic Liturgy (the Mass) is our focus, private prayer and interaction with a small group help to enrich our Catholic experience. These groups encourage us in our Christian journey through scripture study, faith sharing, prayer, fellowship and service.

### **New Beginnings**

This 3-session process of spiritual formation invites parishioners to deepen their faith and explore their God-given talents and aptitudes. Enrich your sense of membership through presentations, workbook activities, and personal and group reflections on our Church. Offered every Spring, Fall, and Winter.

### **Women's Retreat**

Each year in Autumn, a women's retreat is offered for those who want to pull away to the quiet in order to be united with God through prayer, reflection, journaling, spiritual guidance and learning.

### **JustFaith**

JustFaith is a formation process and spiritual journey. Over the course of seven to eight months, participants meet weekly for readings, videos, lecture, discussion, prayer, retreats and hands-on experiences in justice education. Participants are afforded the privilege of becoming a small faith community with other participants and sharing a journey of faith and compassion that is both life-giving and challenging.

## Parish School

The goal of the St. Mary Parish School is to provide the best possible educational experiences, learning opportunities and integration of religious truths and values. Through the combined efforts of the staff, parents and students, within our Catholic school, teachers and students experience together what it means to live a life of prayer, personal responsibility and freedom reflective of gospel values. The commitment of the Catholic school to Christian values and Christian moral code render a profound service to society, our families and our communities.

**Grades** K4-8, **Number of Students** 450 (2006-2007 School Year)

**Exemplary Recognition** by the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Office of Schools

**Fully Accredited** The Wisconsin Nonpublic School Accrediting Association has awarded St. Mary Parish School, Hales Corners; the high standards of excellence required of all members of the WNSAA and has been accredited by the association.

### **ACTIVITIES and ELECTIVES**

- Spanish (grades 6-8)
- Band (grades 4-8)
- Chess Club and Tournament
- Student Council
- Chorus
- Full Scouting Program
- Art Club
- Young Authors
- Tutoring
- Before and After School Care
- Future City
- Athletics
- Academic Competitions
- Field Trips
- Student Service and Leadership Opportunities

**OFFERINGS:**

Daily prayer and weekly liturgies  
Beautiful and secure buildings and grounds  
Hot lunch  
New playground, tech lab, library, science lab, music and band  
rooms, art room, cafeteria, offices  
Updated and new classrooms  
High Pep/ Talented and Gifted  
Program with Resource Room  
Standards based/web report cards, curriculum review reflective of  
WI Academic standards  
Big brother/Big sister program  
Class limit to 25; 2 sections/grade  
Strong parental support

**St. Mary Parish School** strives to be a place of welcome, a place to feel at home. Each student and teacher, each parent and visitor is received with respect and hospitality.

**Education for Life and Beyond**

Academic excellence has always been a hallmark of Catholic education. St. Mary's continues that tradition. Our students consistently excel in intellectual achievements. Looking ahead, we are instilling in our children the desire to be life-long learners. Intellectual curiosity and ability are and will be essential to personal and professional growth. St. Mary's is an oasis in a world seeking direction and goodness. We invite you to visit our campus and experience for yourself the St. Mary's spirit.

## **Community Life**

### **Young at Heart**

The Young at Heart, created in 1995, is an organized group of mature adults committed to:

- (1) Providing social and educational activities to the mature adults of St. Mary's Catholic Faith Community and others who are interested in joining us.
- (2) Enhancing the health and wellness of our members.
- (3) Using as many of our own talents as possible to develop these activities and other activities that may result in earnings that may be used to fill the needs of our members, parish and the Christian community.

There is no age or religious affiliation requirements and you do not have to be a member of our parish to join.

The organization is administered by a Board of Directors who meets once a month, usually at 9:00a.m. on the first Monday of each month in the parish board room to plan the upcoming activities. Members are welcome to attend board meetings to contribute helpful input.

The group participates in many outside activities such as day trips, picnics, plays, concerts, dinners, etc. Members receive quarterly newsletters which advise them of the planned activities for the coming months.

### **Fish Fry**

The St. Mary's Fish Fry is a community event that is held on the first Friday of the month in October, November, December, February, March and the Friday of the Festival in July.

### **Scouting**

The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have been active at St. Mary's for many years. These programs involve all age groups. The program centers on the outdoors. Camping, hiking, environmental study, and crafts are all included.

## **Social Activities & Hospitality**

The social activities in the parish assist in building our parish community by bringing people together. For example, Sunday morning Continental Breakfasts, held at various times throughout the year, are an opportunity for parishioners to gather informally with family and friends. Formal receptions after special events, and funeral receptions occur in our Gathering Space. Other events, such as dances, the Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair, etc. are offered throughout the year. Rather than being the primary responsibility of a single committee, individual groups of people and organizations are asked to sponsor these social events.

## **Parish Festival Committee**

The Parish Festival is held annually during the summer. It's purpose is twofold: to raise money for the parish, and more importantly, to bring parishioners together in a spirit of community and cooperative effort. It provides an excellent opportunity for parishioners to get involved, to meet others in the community and experience the rewards of doing something for the parish. At the same time, it involves a limited commitment, as the festival is held over one weekend in July.

## **Home & School Association**

All parents who have children attending St. Mary's Parish School are voting members of this organization. The objectives of this organization are to: (1) provide channels of communication between home and school in order to improve the growth of education; (2) provide supplemental funds to the school, through various fund raising activities; and (3) help host school-related functions. Meetings are held several times a year.

## **Athletic Association**

St. Mary's Athletic Association was established in the Spring of 1981 to provide a permanent committee responsible for the establishment, evaluation and funding of interscholastic athletic activities for the youth of the parish community. These activities include soccer for first through eighth graders and volleyball, basketball and track for those in fifth through eighth grade. Students who are registered members of the Parish and registered participants in the Lifelong Faith Formation program are encouraged to participate.



November 2006